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Item 74 of the preliminary list*
General and complete disarmament

Letter dated 26 June 2000 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the statement by the heads of State of the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States on the issue of maintaining strategic stability, adopted at the meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Commonwealth in Moscow on 21 June 2000 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex distributed as a document of the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly, under item 74 of the preliminary list.

(*Signed*) S. **Lavrov**

* A/55/50.

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Annex to the letter dated 26 June 2000 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement by the Heads of State of the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States on the issue of maintaining strategic stability

The Heads of State of the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States have reviewed the current situation in the field of maintaining the world's strategic stability and the status of the international agreements on which it is founded.

The Heads of State declare their commitment to the work of strengthening strategic stability and international security. They welcome the ratification by Russia of the START II Agreement, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and the 1997 package of agreements on anti-ballistic missile systems. They count on the ratification of all these agreements by the United States of America.

The Heads of State note the historic significance of the Treaty on the Limitation of Anti-Ballistic Missile Systems (ABM Treaty) of 26 May 1972 as the cornerstone of international peace, security and strategic stability and reaffirm its lasting value in contemporary life. They express their confidence that the ABM Treaty will, over the decades, continue to provide a solid platform for further reductions in the world's strategic nuclear weapons, to which the international community attaches great importance. The Heads of State consider that the adoption of any measures that might erode the aims and provisions of the current ABM Treaty would have a negative effect on the security interests not only of parties to the Treaty but also of the whole international community and would undermine both global strategic stability and any movement towards further reductions in strategic nuclear weapons.

The Heads of State support the position of the international community on the need to preserve the stability and integrity of the ABM Treaty and call for additional efforts to maintain the Treaty by fully and strictly observing its provisions with a view to ensuring that it remains the basis for global strategic stability, international security and world peace.

Kremlin, Moscow

21 June 2000